

Appendix C:
Center Directors

Center Directors

Wernher von Braun

Eberhard Rees

Rocco A. Petrone

William R. Lucas

James R. Thompson

T. Jack Lee

Wernher von Braun

Born: March 23, 1912
Place: Wiersitz, Germany
Education: Berlin Institute of Technology,
Mechanical Engineering, 1932
Master's: University of Berlin, 1933
Doctorate: University of Berlin, Physics, 1934

Career:

1934 German Ordnance Department, Rocket Development Engineer
1937 Peenemünde Rocket Center, Director of Research
1945 White Sands, NM, White Sands Missile Range, Project Director
1945 Ft. Bliss, TX, Guided Missile Development Group, Project Director
1950 Redstone Arsenal, AL, Guided Missile Development Group,
Technical Director
1955 Became a U.S. citizen
1956 Redstone Arsenal, AL, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, Director of
Development Operations Division
1960 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Director
1970 Washington, DC, National Aeronautics and Space Administration,
Deputy Associate Administrator for Planning

- 1972 Germantown, MD, Vice President, Engineering and Development,
Fairchild Industries
- 1977 Retired in January, and died in Virginia on June 15, 1977

Eberhard Rees

Born: April 28, 1908
 Place: Trossingen, Germany
 Education: Stuttgart University
 Master's: Dresden Institute of Technology,
 Mechanical Engineering, 1934

Career:

- 1940 Peenemünde Rocket Center, Technical Plant Manager
- 1945 White Sands, NM, White Sands Missile Range, U.S. Army contract
- 1945 Ft. Bliss, TX, Guided Missile Development Group
- 1950 Redstone Arsenal, AL, Guided Missile Development Group
- 1954 Became a U.S. citizen
- 1956 Redstone Arsenal, AL, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, Deputy
 Director of Development Operations
- 1959 Winter Park, FL, Honorary degree of Doctor of Science, Rollins
 College
- 1960 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Deputy Director for Scientific and
 Technical Matters
- 1970 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Director
- 1973 January 26, retired

Rocco A. Petrone

Born: March 31, 1926
 Place: Amsterdam, NY
 Education: West Point, 1946
 Master's: MIT, Mechanical Engineering, 1951
 Doctorate: MIT, Mechanical Engineering, 1952

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Career:

- 1952 U.S. Army Redstone Arsenal, Redstone Rocket Development
- 1956 Pentagon, Army General Staff, missiles
- 1960 Cape Canaveral, Saturn Project Officer
- 1961 Cape Canaveral, Apollo Manned Lunar Landing Program
- 1966 Kennedy Space Center, Director Launch Operations
- 1969 Washington DC, Apollo Program Director National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- 1972 Washington, DC, additional assignment, Director of NASA's Apollo Soyuz Test Project
- 1973 Huntsville, Director, Marshall Space Flight Center
- 1974 Associate Administrator for Center Operations, NASA

William R. Lucas

Born: March 1, 1922
Place: Newbern, TN
Education: Memphis State University, Chemistry
Master's: Vanderbilt University, Metallurgy
Doctorate: Vanderbilt University, Metallurgy

Career:

- 1941 Naval Officer
- 1952 Redstone Arsenal, AL, Guided Missile Development Group, Staff Member
- 1956 Redstone Arsenal, AL, Army Ballistic Missile Agency, Materials Officer
- 1960 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Program Development Directorate
- 1971 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Deputy Director
- 1974 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Director
- 1986 Resigned as Marshall Space Flight Center Director
- 1987 University of Alabama, Huntsville, Assistant to the President for Space Initiatives Activity

James R. Thompson, Jr.

Born: March 6, 1936
 Place: Greenville, NC
 Education: Georgia Institute of Technology, Aeronautical Engineering, 1958
 Master's: University of Florida, Mechanical Engineering, 1963
 Doctorate: University of Alabama, Fluid Mechanics, course work completed

Career:

1960 West Palm Beach, FL, Pratt and Whitney Aircraft, Development Engineer
 1963 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Saturn Launch Vehicle Project, Liquid Propulsion Engineer
 1966 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Space Engine Section, Chief
 1969 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Man/Systems Integration Branch, Chief
 1974 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Main Engine Project, Manager
 1982 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Science and Engineering Directorate, Associate Director
 1983 Princeton, NJ, Plasma Physics Laboratory Deputy Director of Technical Operations
 1986 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Director
 1989 Washington, DC, NASA, Deputy Administrator

T. Jack Lee

Born: 1935
 Place: Wedowee, AL
 Education: University of Alabama, Aeronautical Engineering, 1958
 Master's: Harvard School of Business, Advanced Management Program, 1985

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Career:

- 1958 Redstone Arsenal, AL, Army Ballistic Missile Huntsville, AL, Senior Manager, Orbital Sciences Corporation Agency, Research Engineer
- 1960 San Diego, CA, Centaur Resident Manager Office, Systems Engineer
- 1963 Blandenburg, MD, Pegasus Project, Resident Project Manager
- 1965 Kennedy Space Center, Saturn Program Resident Office, Chief
- 1969 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Assistant to Technical Deputy Director
- 1973 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Spacelab Program Office, Manager
- 1980 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Deputy Director
- 1980 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Director Heavy Lift Launch Vehicle Definition Office
- 1986 July–September, Marshall Space Flight Center, Acting Director
- 1989 Marshall Space Flight Center, AL, Director
- 1994 Washington, DC, NASA, Special Assistant for Access to Space